

#FASHION & BEAUTY

BeDeshi – putting Bengali fashion on the global map

Bengali fashion is a treasure trove of great outfit designs, styles, and fabrics that are unique and comfortable, and we Bengalis take pride in seeing our local garments being highlighted in the global arena, more so in the world of fashion.



Bringing Bengali fashion to the limelight, Tasmit Afiyat Arny, Founder and CEO of Stride, brought to reality her vision of sharing Bangladeshi culture through the lens of her fashion line on 21 July 2023, with support from the Qatar Foundation and the Embassy of Bangladesh.

The title of the show – BeDeshi – was a play on words in two languages, which is an indication towards being a foreigner and also a strong message to be authentic to one's roots.

"Although the Bangladesh garment industry is massive, it does not get as much attention in the global fashion scene as it should. Taking this into consideration, I decided to showcase Bengali fashion on a global platform," stated Arny.

All of the outfits were designed by Arny and from her own fashion house — Stride.

The purpose of the fashion show was to educate the broader global audience about Bangladeshi fashion and show a walking depiction of our culture. Not only that, but the weather in Qatar is similar to that of Bangladesh, so it was brought to their attention how our fabric is suitable and comfortable for everyday wear.

The one-of-a-kind fashion show had models walking the runway from diverse backgrounds including Qatari, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, and African nationalities, strutting Avant Garde outfits in front of American, British, and Bangladeshi diplomats, the Bangladeshi community, and individuals from the Qatari fashion industry.

The fashion show was a means to educate the audience about our local culture and fabric — and this was beautifully done. The materials used to make the outfits included jamdani, nakshi kantha, Rajshahi silk, gamchha, and taant. Printed garments told

wear on display. Some noteworthy outfits include a bridal skirt made from rikshaw plastic, a wedding gown made of jamdani, face-printed cardigans, gamchha two-piece and blazer, and silk gowns. There was an attire for every occasion, from casual daywear to shimmery evening gowns.

Apart from these, every model flashed a sunglasses that was hand-painted with bright patterns and murals we see in rikshaws. Each guest also received a Bangladeshi souvenir, which was a bookmark made from our local materials. The numerous textures and vibrant shades in the attires truly depicted the vivacity of our culture.

This fashion show was made possible with the support of Gulf Bangladesh Business Association, Abdul Matin Social Welfare Foundation, Green Red Studios Event, and Rosher Hari and was anchored by Maphuza Akter and Ayesha Hamid. BeDeshi was truly a magnificent portrayal of



the stories of history and featured historical figures such as prints of newspapers, Ahsan Manzil, and war martyrs.

The line-up had both bridal and casual

our local fashion scene on the global platform.

By Fariha Amber
Photo: Tahreem M Nazmur

#PERSPECTIVE

Consequences of climate change on gardening

It's been a rough year for gardeners — climate change is threatening a favourite pastime, a hobby, and a passion for millions.

Early spring, sudden drops in night-time temperature, and lack of rain have made it challenging for me to grow much this spring and summer. My cucumber vine succumbed to a slow and premature death and the spinach simply refused to live. Lettuces were not growing as they should, the eggplant is still a dwarf, and the Malabar spinach did not grow past several inches. Perennials like hydrangea and white 'Stargazer' lilies did not bear flowers, not even one! Not to mention the squirrels, who forage in the backyard and add to the agony of my plants! In the face of climate change, the only plants that are doing fairly well are the heirloom and cherry tomatoes.

People who grow crops and those who garden are often the first ones to sense any climate changes. These people



also watch these changes first-hand because they spend a considerable amount of their time in and with nature.

I am a hobby gardener and if you have ever owned plants, then you must know how much it hurts when your plants

droop, their leaves wither, and their buds and blossoms drop to the ground before turning into showy flowers or nutritious edibles. However, the truth is that if the weather does not permit, our time and effort are of no use.

Climate crisis is real and everyone is feeling it in some way or another.

On the morning of 7 June this year, when

I looked out the window, it looked like an overcast day, although the weather app said otherwise. I had not realised what was happening until I left home to pick up my daughter from her school. I checked the day's AQI (air quality index) on the phone and it read "unhealthy." Exposure to the outside air left my throat scratchy by then. I soon found out that it was not an overcast day but a shroud of smoke hanging in the air. The smoke was coming to America's East Coast from Canada, where the boreal forests were burning, and are still burning at the time of writing. New York City recorded the worst air quality in the world that day.

Here in Delaware, by the following morning, the air quality reached a hazardous level of 423 as opposed to an AQI value of 50 or below, which represents good air quality. We could not open our windows for three days in a row.

